



## Message from the Tribal Chairman

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September 28, 2005

Dear Tribal Employees and Members:

I have decided to begin circulating my up messages again after a very hectic summer schedule. I appreciate the support and interest many of you shared in regard to these updates. Rather than issue them weekly, I will do them periodically when news items or recognitions merit such. I will also have the updates printed in the Menominee Nation News for people who do not have access to them electronically. I hope you enjoy!

### **Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Kenosha Project Released by BIA:**

On September 23, 2005 the Bureau of Indian Affairs issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement relating to the proposed Kenosha entertainment center and casino project. This Draft EIS scrutinizes our proposed entertainment center and casino on a number of levels – measuring environmental and socio-economic impacts, traffic and infrastructure needs, effect on market competition and more. In all instances, without exception, our project is a good fit for Kenosha, Southeast Wisconsin and our Tribe. The Draft EIS is posted on our Web site at [www.kenoshacasino.com](http://www.kenoshacasino.com), [www.menominee-nsn.gov](http://www.menominee-nsn.gov), <http://reports.analyticalcorp.net/kenosha/deis/default.htm> and is also available for review in the Chairman's office. In releasing the Draft EIS the BIA has also scheduled a public hearing on the document at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Pleasant Prairie, which is just south of Kenosha.

There will be a 60 day comment period and then the BIA will review the comments and issue a Final EIS in early 2006 and once it is published in the Federal Register there will be a 30 day waiting period before a Record of Decision is issued. The difficulty in projecting EIS related timeframes is that outside interests can and may legally challenge some aspect of the findings, which could further delay this process. We're optimistic and believe the EIS will ultimately withstand all scrutiny, but we're also aware of the political landscape and know that the Forest County Potawatomi Tribe has been unrelenting in their criticism of this initiative.

### **Kenosha Hiring Policy:**

Apparently there was some confusion surrounding an article that appeared in the September 12<sup>th</sup> issue of the Menominee Nation News relating to Kenosha hiring

preference. The press release was designed to assure citizens of Kenosha and nearby communities that they would be given hiring preference when jobs become available. This preference is secondary to tribal hiring preference, for Tribal Ordinance 82-10 will be honored in the hiring process down in Kenosha. Essentially, we wanted to assure local citizens in the area that we had an interest in hiring Wisconsin residents, for the Potawatomi Tribe had alleged that many of the jobs would be going to Illinois residents.

**Assembly Speaker Gard's Bill passes limiting off-reservation casinos:**

The Assembly took up Speaker Gard's bill in the early morning hours of September 28<sup>th</sup>, passing it by a margin of 59 to 37. The bill would require the Legislature to approve off reservation casinos. Now the bill will be taken up by the State Senate. If the Senate passes it the Governor could still veto it. We will continue to work on this, since it will have great bearing on our proposed Kenosha project. It is worth noting that three times over 2003 and 2004 Governor Doyle vetoed lawmaker's attempts to give themselves oversight of the gambling compacts he negotiates with the tribes. He said negotiations between the state's 11 tribes that offer gambling and 132 lawmakers would be a mess.

**Menominee Constitution and By-Law input sought:**

The Menominee Tribal Legislature held a General Council meeting on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, to solicit possible amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws by tribal members. Several suggestions were made and the Legislature decided to allow tribal members 30 days to provide any additional written comments. These comments should be addressed to the Chairman's Office and be delivered on or before October 17<sup>th</sup>. Once we received all the comments, the Legislature will review and provide a summary and response to the membership after a review period. If any tribal members want a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws they are available in the Chairman's office.

**Dr. Culhane to assist Hurricane Katrina victims:**

Dr. Culhane as a commissioned officer of the Indian Health Service has been temporarily reassigned to assist with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. He will be away for a three week period. We wish him well and thank his colleagues at the clinic for pitching in while he is away.

**Elders Pow wow and Maehnowesekiyah Sobriety Dance:**

On Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> I had the opportunity to attend the Elder's Pow wow and then I went to Maehnowesekiyah's Sobriety Dance and gave out awards for clients who were nominated by their counselors for their commitment to sobriety. This was a great evening and worth mentioning because both events were about celebration, which is so central to our culture. This is all the more important in times of great loss like we experienced recently. Our faith and customs provide us with the strength and spiritual renewal to carry forth.

**Congratulations to MTE Board Members:**

I want to congratulate Linda Caldwell, Adrian "Dusty" Miller, Ron Waukau and Joe Besaw on their election to the MTE Board of Directors. This year more than 1,000 tribal members participated in the election!

**One-Time Free Tribal Enrollment Cards Available:**

Tribal members who are 16 years of age or older will be eligible to receive a free tribal enrollment identification card. To fill out an application for this new card you can click on this MS Word link:



Identification  
Application.doc

Once you complete the application it should be returned the Enrollment Office. This office will then certify your application, return it to you and once the cards are available you will be notified and you can bring in your certified application and receive your tribal identification card. These new cards will have a magnetic strip on them and can be used at the tribe's new gas pumps across from the casino. Essentially, the pump will read the magnetic strip and determine you're a tribal member and provide you a discounted rate. In my next update, I will provide more information on how the gas pumps will work and I am encouraging Community Development to make presentations to our elders.

**Lumberjack Breakfast this weekend:**

The Menominee Historic Preservation Office is again sponsoring their Lumberjack Breakfast and Forest Products Workshop on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Menominee Logging Camp Museum. It is \$5.00 and it is all you can eat. For more information, please contact Historic Preservation at 799-5258. Also, they need volunteers, for in the past they have served several hundred breakfasts!

**Welcome new Employees:**

I am pleased to announce that the Legislature hired Mr. Chris Caldwell, as the Tribal Resource Compliance Officer. Mr. Caldwell will head up the newly created Trust Resources Department and advise the Legislature on forestry and resource management issues. And, Toni Caldwell has been hired as the Tribe's Child Support Attorney. These two hires are great examples of how the tribe can utilize the education, skill and talent of our members when they pursue advance degrees.

**New Tribal Website:**

I wanted to express my appreciation to the Tribe's Management Information Systems staff for the new website. Please note that the new URL for the tribe is [www.menominee-nsn.gov](http://www.menominee-nsn.gov). This new site is appealing, user friendly and a nice reflection upon the tribe.

I hope you find this useful information and I look forward to communicating with you in the future.

Kind regards,

Michael Chapman  
Tribal Chairman